Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

GENERAL NOTES

The Pasadena Meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.—The third annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Pasadena, California, June 19-22, like its predecessors, was a marked success, both in the matter of attendance, the high class of the scientific papers presented, the interest shown, and the careful arrangement for the entertainment of all those present.

Sessions of the affiliated societies were held in the hall of Throop College, Pasadena, on Thursday and Friday mornings, none being planned for the afternoons, in order to give the members an opportunity to attend the two Symposia of the Association. The first of these was under the auspices of the Western Society of Naturalists, and the problems involved in the projected exploration of the North Pacific Ocean were ably presented by eight specialists in this field. The symposium of Friday afternoon was devoted to "Scientific Education in a Democracy," each of the seven speakers presenting some new phase of the scientists' opportunity and responsibility in the solution of the problems presenting themselves in the readjustment to peace conditions.

It is to be hoped that the plan of devoting the afternoons to general sessions of the Association will be continued, inasmuch as these are one of the most important features of scientific gatherings, affording as they do an opportunity of mingling with and hearing specialists in all the different fields of investigation.

The address of the retiring president of the Pacific Division, Dr. D. T. MacDougal, on the "Growth of Organisms," given on Thursday evening in the Palm Room of Hotel Maryland, was listened to by a large and appreciative audience. Dr. MacDougal dealt in a masterly way and in a manner especially interesting to his audience with one of the most difficult and at the same time most fascinating problems of science, the fundamental processes of life development. A summary of his conclusions, presented in this address, will be found in the number of *Science* for June 27th, and is particularly commended to our readers.

As one of the participating societies, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific held two sessions for the presentation of scientific papers. Dr. Dorothea K. Roberts, the second vice-president of the society, presided over the meeting on Thursday morning, and Dr. J. A. Anderson, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, presided at Friday morning's session. Both sessions were well attended, there being a good representation of astronomers from the Pacific Coast and a lively interest was shown in the numerous lines of investigation described.

In addition to the twenty-eight papers in the preliminary program printed in the June, 1919, number of these PUBLICATIONS, the four following were presented:

(1) On the Sources of Stellar Energy, by Henry Norris Russell.

(2) Dispersion Tables for B-type Stars, by H. Thiele.

(3) Preliminary Parallax of *Nova Aquilae* No. 3, by A. van Maanen and R. F. Sanford.

(4) A Periodic Term in the Observations of Right Ascension, by R. H. Tucker.

The public address of Friday evening was given by Professor S. D. Townley on "Earthquakes on the Pacific Coast of North America," a subject with which Dr. Townley is thoroly conversant, and knows how to make especially interesting to his audience. In this lecture special attention was given to the consideration of the cause of earthquakes so far as known, and to the form of construction of buildings required in earthquake regions.

Through the courtesy of Throop College of Technology, excellent luncheons were served in the college dormitory to all visiting members on Thursday and Friday. The social intercourse of the noon hour, the renewal of old acquaintances and the forming of new ones, was one of the pleasant features of these meetings.

Among so many things of interest it might be difficult to pick out that which impressed one the most; but the visit, on Saturday, to the laboratories and shops of the Mount Wilson Observatory and to the Observatory itself on the summit of Mount Wilson, must have appealed to all the members, and certainly to those interested in astronomy, as the fitting climax of the Pasadena meeting.

Every moment of the day and a good part of the night was fully occupied; there were the beautiful photographs of nebulae, of spectra, laboratory, solar and stellar; demonstrations were given by members of the staff of the working of the tower telescopes with their powerful spectrographs and spectroheliographs; and of the 60-inch and 100-inch reflectors. At the noon hour a buffet luncheon was served on the grounds of the Observatory.

Naturally interest centered on the new 100-inch telescope, now practically completed. At four in the afternoon the visitors, to the number of about two hundred, assembled in the great dome and listened to an illustrated lecture by Director Hale on the work of the Observatory. He stated that while the first equipment of the Observatory was designed for solar work alone, it had not been their intention to devote observations to the Sun alone, but to bring to the study of this typical star information gathered from the other stars, and for this purpose the 60-inch and finally the 100-inch reflector had been constructed. Among the many lines of investigation for which the great light gathering power of this instrument will be utilized is the one, long cherished by Dr. Hale, of photographing the spectra of at least the brighter stars with stationary spectrographs comparable in dispersion with those used on the Sun. One is impressed with the ease and rapidity with which this massive instrument is manipulated and the manner in which all the numerous and difficult engineering problems have been successfully met. Those who remained during the evening had an opportunity of seeing several objects with the large telescope and, for all, these were wonderful views. The visiting astronomers present, several of them men familiar with the best that existing telescopes can do, were filled with admiration for the magnificent definition given by this instrument. In their judgment the definition given by the 100-inch is not only satisfactory, but of the very best. Director Hale and his able staff are certainly to be congratulated on this splendid instrument. Theirs was not only the responsibility of design, but the actual work of construction, as the mechanical (except the very massive ones) and optical parts were made in the Observatory shops. In due time we shall expect to see the hopes of its makers fully realized in the important scientific results obtained by the aid of this telescope.

I feel sure that the members would all wish to join me in expressing our appreciation to Dr. amd Mrs. Hale of the delightful garden party given in honor of the visitors at their home on Friday evening. The Association is also under deep obligation to the director and staff of the Mount Wilson Observatory, to the president and faculty of Throop College, and especially to the very efficient committee on arrangements, for the attention and many courtesies which contributed so largely to the success of this meeting.

J. H. MOORE.

Corrections to the Adolfo Stahl Lectures in Astronomy.—In order to avoid a possible misunderstanding regarding the nature of the tests made upon the 100-inch mirror during the process of figuring the following modification of the wording of the description contained in the third paragraph on page 250 of the *Adolfo Stahl Lectures in Astronomy*, is suggested:

". . . . Visual optical tests were made each morning after a day's figuring; frequently repeated tests on different days were necessary before figuring could be resumed. These tests were made both at the center of curvature and at the focus of the paraboloid; the former method is better for determining the figure of the mirror as a whole, while the latter test is invaluable for detecting and correcting zonal errors in the general curvature. At intervals during the figuring the Hartmann method of testing was also used, the measurements of the photographic plates by Mr. Adams furnishing explicit data regarding the figure of the mirror. . . ."

In referring to the black notch in the nebula extending south from *Zeta Orionis*, the statement is made, on page 167, that "This particular marking has not, so far as I am aware, been photographed before." Professor Barnard, in a kindly letter, has given me references to several earlier photographs showing this feature, including one by Dr. Isaac Roberts taken January 25, 1900, and reproduced in the *Astrophysical Journal*, Vol. 17, Plate IV, p. 76; and one by himself, reproduced in the negative form in Vol. 38, Plate XX, p. 496, of the same journal.

The caption for figure 9, p. 128, should read "Eratosthenes' Method of Determining the Size of the Earth."

R. G. AITKEN.

The French minister of education has named as American correspondents of the Bureau of Longitudes, Dr. George E. Hale, director of the Mt. Wilson Observatory; Dr. William Wallace Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory; and Professor William S. Eichelberger, director of the U. S. Naval Observatory.

Dr. George E. Hale has been elected a foreign associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences, a distinction previously conferred upon only two Americans, Simon Newcomb and Alexander Agassiz. A further honor came to Dr. Hale when upon his resignation as chairman of the National Research Council, the title of honorary chairman was created and bestowed upon him in perpetuity by the Council in recognition of his distinguished service which contributed so largely to the organization of science for the assistance of the government during the war.

Walter Gould Davis.—By the death of Walter G. Davis on April 30th the world lost one of its most eminent and highly respected meteorologists. Beginning his scientific career in 1876 as one of the little group of brilliant assistants of the late Dr. Benjamin A. Gould at the Astronomical Observatory in Cordoba, Mr. Davis became, upon Dr. Gould's departure from Argentina, director of the meteorological service, a position which he filled with distinction for thirty years (1885-1915). It was largely thru his skill as a scientist and administrator that this department attained its present position in the very front rank of meteorological organizations. A keen, active and progressive director, Mr. Davis was also a man of wide learning and of a great variety of interests. The excellent meteorological and climatological publications of the Argentine Bureau issued under his direction constitute an inspiring record of splendid work and form a fitting monument to his memory.

Mr. Davis' successor, the present director of the Argentine Meteorological Office, Mr. George O. Wiggin, is also a native of the United States and was for ten years a member of the astronomical staff of the Cordoba Observatory.

Total Eclipse of the Sun, May 29, 1919.—Reports from the different expeditions sent out to observe the total eclipse of the Sun on May 29th, indicate that successful observations were obtained by at least two or three stations.

The two English expeditions expected to devote all of their efforts to the photographing of stars immediately surrounding the Sun, for the purpose of testing Einstein's relativity theory and also the hypothesis that light radiations are subject to gravitational action. From the station at Prince's Island, off the coast of West Africa, occupied by Professor Eddington and Mr. Cottingham, the brief message "Through cloud, hopeful" has been received. It probably signifies partial success in their observations. Dr. Crommelin and Mr. Davidson were located at Sobral in Brazil and appear to have had a clear sky for at least part of totality. Their photographs show all of the stars which they were hoping to obtain in the field around the Sun.

Magnetic observations were made at Cape Palmas, Liberia, by Dr. Bauer and party of the U. S. Magnetic Survey. Recent information from them states that the magnetic effect observed at previous eclipses has been confirmed by their results on May 29th. They also describe the inner corona as very bright with marked outer coronal extensions south southeast and north northwest of the Sun. No shadow bands were seen. J. H. M.

The Ultra Violet Band of Ammonia and Its Occurrence in the Solar Spectrum (*A Review*).—In the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society of London, Vol. 218, pp. 351-372, Messrs. A. Fowler and C. C. L. Gregory give the results of investigations on the ultra-violet band of ammonia and its occurrence in the solar spectrum. Spectrograms of an electric arc between copper electrodes in an atmosphere of ammonia were obtained with a 10-foot concave grating. The ultra-violet band λ3360 is shown to have associated with it six series of lines, three occurring on each side of the center of the band and extending over a distance of more than 70 A. The series on each side coalesce as they get farther from the center of the band. The central maximum at λ3360 is composed of fine lines which seem to form five series, two on the red side and three on the more refrangible side. The secondary maximum at λ3371 is composed of four series, of which three are on the red side and the fourth extends on each side of the center, thus giving the central maximum an unsymmetrical appearance. A comparison is made with the solar spectrum in this region. The central maximum is very strong in the Sun and the secondary maximum can also be seen. The comparison of individual lines measured within the solar spectrum is quite satisfactory. Of the 260 lines of ammonia in the region λ3450 to λ3286, about 140 coincide with previously unidentified faint lines in the solar spectrum. About 100 of the remaining lines are obscured by lines known to be due to other substances in the Sun. These investigations seem to establish with reasonable certainty the fact that the spectrum usually ascribed to ammonia is present as absorption in the Sun.

C. D. S.